

**Bloomington, Indiana University, Bloomington, Lilly Library at Indiana University, Ricketts 24**

*Description:* Poissy Psalter ff. 203 - Bound in modern calf preserving parts of sides and spine of early sixteenth-century blind-stamped leather including repeated quatrefoils within lozenges; in a brown cloth case. - The Dominican convent of Poissy, on the Seine, near Paris, probably there by c. 1360 and certainly at Poissy by the late fifteenth century; Tregaskis cat. 466 (June 1900), no. 489, cat. 472 (September 1900), no. 601, and cat. 479 (December 1900), no. 623; William Harris Arnold (1854-1924), with his bookplate; his sale, Anderson, New York, 10 November 1924, lot 601; C. L. Ricketts; acquired by the Lilly Library with the Ricketts Collection in 1961. - De Ricci 1935, p. 621; Naughton 1995, pp. 131, 274, 281 and 293-96 (no. 7) and figs. 92-93.

*Notes:* -The manuscript began life as a relatively straightforward private Psalter of the mid-thirteenth century, with the psalms (fol. 1r), canticles (fol. 136r) and a brief litany (fol. 149v) including invocations of Saints Denis, Remigius, Geneviève, Gertrude and Aldegunda, all consistent with north-eastern France, or possibly Paris. The historiated initials, with a picture for psalm 109 rather than psalm 101, conform to the pattern of table XI in Haseloff 1938, pp. 112-13. Around 1360 the then hundred-year-old manuscript was upgraded with new texts in honour of the Virgin Mary. The manuscript was certainly at Poissy by the late fifteenth century. There is an inscription on the end flyleaf, "Ce livre est pour l'usage de seur Ragonde moterne Religieuze au Roial monastaire de poissy ('This book is for the use of Sister Ragonde Moterne, nun at the royal abbey of Poissy'); she is recorded as a nun at Poissy in the 1480s.

*Number of Parts:* 2 - *Number of Images Available:* 3

*Direct Link:* [http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/Ricketts24\\_40](http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/Ricketts24_40)

*Language:* Latin *Country:* France *Century:* 13th 14th

**Part 1:** ff 1-152

*Description:* - Parchment - 108 x 79 mm - Fols. 1-152 (quires i-xix), c. 1250, with two leaves replaced) Collation: (a) i-xiii<sup>8</sup>, xiv<sup>7+1</sup> [of 8, lacking iii, replaced c. 1360, fol. 107], xv<sup>7+1</sup> [of 8, lacking viii, replaced c. 1360, fol. 120], xv-xix<sup>8</sup>. Ruled in plummet, 19 lines, written-space 72 mm. by 53 mm., beginning below top ruled line.

*Country:* France

*Cardinal point:* northern

*Region:*

*City:* Paris?

*Assigned Date:* s. XIII<sup>med</sup>

*Searchable Date Range:* 1240 - 1260

*Dated by scribe:* No

*Inscribed Date:*

*Document:* No

*Number of Scribes:*

*Script:* Gothic Textura

*Figurative Decoration:* 2-line illuminated initials for psalms. Eight historiated initials in the first part, mostly 7-line, showing Samuel anointing David (fol. 21v, Dominus illuminatio, psalm 26), David pointing to his mouth (fol. 35r, Dixi custodiam, psalm 38), the fool with his club and bauble (fol. 47v, Dixit insipiens, psalm 52), David in the water praying to God above (fol. 60r, Salvum me fac, psalm 68), David with a viol (fol. 75v, Exultate deo, psalm 80), 3 priests at a lectern (fol. 90r, Cantate domino, psalm 97), the Father and Son together (fol. 105r, Dixit dominus, psalm 109) and a bier between candles (fol. 108r, Dilexi quoniam, psalm 114).

*Other Decoration:* Red and blue versal initials throughout.

*Notes:* Latin

*Number of Texts:* 1

**Text 1:** ff. 1-135

*Title:* Psalter

*Language(s):* Latin

*Notes:* Psalms ff. 1r-135v, canticles ff. 136r-148r, litany 149v-152v. Litany includes invocations of Saints Denis, Reigius, Geneviève, Gertrude and Aldegunda, all consistent with north-eastern France, or possibly Paris



f. 1r Beatus initial enclosing David and Goliath.

[View image](#)

[Download image](#)



f. 21v Samuel anointing David, "Dominus illuminatio".

[View image](#)

[Download image](#)



f. 190v Illuminated "A".

[View image](#)

[Download image](#)

## Part 2: ff. 153-201

*Description:* - Parchment - 108 x 79 mm - Collation: xx<sup>7</sup> [of 8, lacking iii, a leaf after fol. 154], xxi-xxv<sup>8</sup>, xxvi<sup>4</sup>, with horizontal catchwords. Ruled apparently in ink, 19 lines also, written-space 73 mm. by 50 mm.

*Country:* France

*Region:*

*Assigned Date:* s. XIV<sup>3/4</sup>

*Dated by scribe:* No

*Document:* No

*Script:* Gothic Textura

*Cardinal point:* northern

*City:* Paris?

*Searchable Date Range:* 1350 - 1375

*Inscribed Date:*

*Number of Scribes:*

*Figurative Decoration:* 2 larger illuminated initials, fols. 174v and 190v, by the same hand which erased the original initial on fol. 1r and replaced it with a 14-line Beatus initial in gothic style enclosing David and Goliath in the upper compartment.

*Other Decoration:* Red and blue versal initials throughout.

*Notes:* It is likely that the manuscript was supplemented for use by a nun at the Dominican royal convent of Saint-Louis at Poissy, on the Seine, near St-Germain-en-Laye, about 20 miles from Paris. The additions were probably made in Paris, although it is possible that there were nuns at Poissy who were capable of writing and illuminating manuscripts themselves. Latin

*Number of Texts:* 4

---

**Text 1:** f. 153

*Title:* Rhyming verse

*Language(s):* Latin

*Incipit:* O maria mater pia / O benigna laude digna ...

*Notes:* Rhyming verses in honor of the Virgin Mary.

---

**Text 2:** ff. 154r-174r

*Author:* Anselm of Canterbury

*Title:* Psalter of the Virgin

*Language(s):* Latin

*Incipit:* Suscipe regina celi / Que mente benigna

*Notes:* Lacking first leaf (after fol. 154), now with cues to psalms 7-150, each followed by a 4-line verse to the Virgin, beginning here "Sint iusta adiutoria" and "Ave nostra advocatrix / Atque vite reparatrix . . ." (Migne, PL, 158: 1037-76, and Dreves 1900, p. 253, no. XVII), commonly ascribed to Anselm of Canterbury.

---

**Text 3:** ff. 174v-190r

*Title:* Psalter of the Virgin

*Language(s):* Latin

*Incipit:* Ave lignum excelsum glorie / Secus aquas plantatum gratie

*Notes:* 93 strophes of 4 or 6 lines each, commonly ascribed to Edmund of Abingdon.

---

**Text 4:** ff. 190v-203v

*Author:* Edmund of Abingdon

*Title:* Psalter of the Virgin

*Language(s):* Latin

*Incipit:* Ave virgo lignum vite / Que dedisit fructum vite

*Notes:* includes 93 strophes of 4 or 6 lines each, commonly ascribed to Edmund of Abingdon.

---